Setting up of Industries in Hilly Areas

430 SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings/ Industries set up in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) whether people of hilly areas have been given employment in them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No Central Public Sector Undertaking/ Industry has been set in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Monitoring of Export Obligations Under EPCG

431 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have tighten its monitoring of export obligations under the Export Promotion Capital Goods during the current year;

(b) whether it is also closely monitoring export obligation under foreign collaboration approval clause;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has sent notices to 38 companies for not meeting export obligations under the foreign collaborations approval clause during the last three years;

(e) if so, the outcome of these notices; and

(f) the steps taken to check such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Export Obligation imposed under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and Foreign Collaboration Approval are being monitored on the basis of the returns, indicating export performances, submitted by firms.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. These cases are under adjudication for imposition of penalties as per terms and conditions of the Legal Undertakings filed by the companies against fulfilment of Export Obligation.

(f) Close monitoring and review of the performance by the firms against their export obligation commitments through the returns filed and enforcing the conditions of the Legal Undertaking filed by the firms are steps taken to check such practices.

Benami Accounts in Banks

432 SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the benami accounts having been opened in public sector banks particularly in Opera House Branch of Bank of India, Fort branches of the State Bank of Saurashtra and Sangli Bank and D.N. Road branch of Standard Chartered Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the officials found responsible for opening those bank accounts;

(d) the number of such more accounts in other banks in the private and public sector all over the country; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to check the opening of benami accounts in the bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Handicrafts

433 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Delhi for promotion of handicrafts in the Capital during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of them pending or under consideration as on date;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for promotion of handicrafts in the capital of Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent on the promotion of handicrafts in Delhi during the last three years and the current year till date?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). The scheme of the Government does not envisage any assistance to the State Governments directly including the State of Delhi for promotion of handicrafts. However, assistance is provided to State Corporation/Societies etc. The number of proposals received from Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation (the corporation looking after the promotion of handicrafts in Delhi) and from Delhi Tourism during the last three years is as under :-

Years	No. of proposal received
1993-94	2
1994-95	3
1995-96	1

All the above mentioned proposals, except one of 1995-96 relating to renovation of an emporia, have been approved.

(c) and (d). For overall development and promotion of handicrafts in the country, including the State of Delhi, the schemes which are being implemented include: training; marketing development support; organisation of marketing programme; design development; setting up of craft development centres and setting up/ renovation of emporia.

In addition to above schemes, a permanent "Dilli Haat" has been set up near INA Market, Delhi with a view to providing marketing outlet for the artisans of Delhi and other States. Similarly, the Central Cottage Industries Corporation Ltd. (CCIC) and Handicrafts and Handloom Exports Corporation Ltd. (HHEC) have set up their showrooms in Delhi for marketing of handicrafts of Delhi and of other States. Delhi has also its emporia for sale of handicrafts.

(e) The amount sanctioned for promotion of handicrafts in Delhi under various schemes of the Government during the last three years and the current financial year is as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Year	Amount Sanctioned
1.	1993-94	65.69
2.	1994-95	101.75
3.	1995-96	173.24
4.	1996-97 (till 20.11.96)	29.93

Limit of Admissible Deduction in Income Tax

434. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present limit of admissible deduction of Rs.1500/- on account of maintenance of minor children is inadequate;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to raise this ceiling in view of the high expenditure on education of children.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The exemption of Rs. 1500 provided under clause (32) of section 10 of the Income-Tax Act is not on account of maintenance of a minor child. Therefor, the question of its adequacy or otherwise does not arise. No proposal to raise the exemption limit is under consideration of the Government.

Garments Export Policy

435. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reintroduced the non-quota exporters entitlement scheme and has earmarked a separate category for new investors for 1997-99; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In the new Garment Export Entitlement Policy (Quota Policy) 1997-99, the Government have reintroduced the Non-Quota Exporters Entitlement System with an allocation of five percent of the annual level. It would be an additional benefit to the non-quota exporters and it is likely to encourage them to export more non-quota items. For new investors, a separate system has also been earmarked in the new Policy with a 10% of annual level.

Winding Up of BIFR

436. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have mooted a proposal to wind up the functioning of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to adopt any other alternative to BIFR to save the sick PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Government have initiated a total review of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) and the working of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with the intention to bring a new Bill in the Parliament.

Export Made by Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone

437. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of units and their production capacity which have been allotted land in Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone;

(b) the value of exports made by these units during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of units, if any, declared sick before they could start commercial production; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the exports from V.E.P.Z.?